

REMARKS

The Sections 101 and 112 Rejections

These rejections to the form of the claims are moot in view of the amendments.

The Obviousness-type Double Patenting Rejection

The examiner alleges that the present application is directed to the imaging of thrombi, while the claims of US 10/857,877 are not limited to the imaging of thrombi.

The claims of US '877 are directed a method that includes "conducting MRI imaging, and visualizing plaque, infarcted tissue, or necrotic tissue in which contrast agent is uptaken, or independently simultaneously visualizing necroses and tumors in which contrast agent is uptaken." (Emphasis added.) See the last part of independent claim 51, on page 11 of the preliminary amendment of 'US '877.

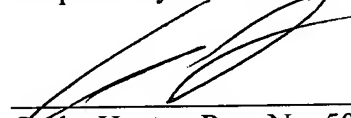
One of ordinary skill in the art facing a teaching that a contrast agent, for example, accumulates in plaque, infarcted tissue, or necrotic tissue or necroses and tumors, that makes their visualization possible, would not be motivated to use the same contrast agent for thrombi making its visualization possible or a reasonable expectation of success. For example, the mechanism of contrast agent uptake is a variable that is expected to be different among these various tissues, structures, etc., based on the completely different histopathological composition of these various tissues, structures, etc. One of ordinary skill in the art would expect that these variations in tissues, structures, etc., and the various mechanisms of uptake of contrast agent to influence whether such tissues, structures, etc., can be visualized when subjected to a specific contrast agent. The targets of the reference's claims do not render obvious the target of the present claims.

For all the foregoing reasons, the claims of the present application are not obvious from

the claims of US '877.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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